

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02706 210731Z

15

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5443

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS PRAGUE 2706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA ETRD CZ US

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAK
AND US CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: (A) WARSAW 5944 (B) PRAGUE 2279

1. AGAINST BACKGROUND REFTEL (A), EMBOFF ASKED JAROSLAV HANZLIK, US DESK OFFICER AT CZECHOSLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR HIS VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN US AND CZECH CHAMBERS WHICH TWO HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED. HANZLIK SAID CHAMBER PRESIDENT CERNY HAD RESPONDED A SHORT TIME AGO TO LETTER FROM EDWARD WILSON AT US CHAMBER INFORMING LATTER OF CZECHOSLOVAK INTEREST IN DISCUSSING ESTABLISHMENT OF US/CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMIC COUNCIL UNDER AEGIS OF BOTH CHAMBERS. CERNY EXPLAINED, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE OF HIS UNAVOIDABLE ABSENCE FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS IN NOVEMBER, GOLDY/WILSON VISIT TO PRAGUE COULD NOT BE SCHEDULED BEFORE NOVEMBER 15. WILSON HAD APPARENTLY RECEIVED CERNY'S LETTER JUST TWO DAYS BEFORE DEPARTING US ON CURRENT E/E SWING AND HAD RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH TOO LATE FOR HIM AND GOLDY TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO CURRENT ITINERARY, US CHAMBER WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH EITHER CERNY OR HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON ON AN EARLY OCCASION TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02706 210731Z

2. HANZLIK NOTED THAT EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE TRIP TO HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (HE APPARENTLY WAS REFERRING HERE TO PROPOSED VISIT OF DEPMIN IVAN PETER--SEE REF. B) IN NEAR FUTURE, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIAL OF SUFFICIENT RANK TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WOULD BE IN US FOR SOME TIME. (ON THIS SUBJECT, HANZLIK SAID THAT POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER CHAMBER-LED CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE MISSION TO US APPEARED REMOTE IN ABSENCE FURTHER MOVEMENT ON MFN LEGISLATION WITHIN USG.) HE PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF LATEST NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING DEPMIN PETER'S VISIT, BUT HOPED THAT EITHER PETER OR SOMEONE ELSE FROM MFT WOULD BE IN US SHORTLY AND COULD TAKE UP MATTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO CHAMBERS AT THAT TIME. HANZLIK SAID PRESIDENT CERNY INTENDED TO WRITE CALDWELL, DIRECTOR OF EAST-WEST TRADT AT US CHAMBER, TO THIS EFFECT.
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